

## ABSTRACT

5 A label 10 for electronics components has a substrate 12 and a coded data symbol 14  
carried by the substrate, for instance a silicon nitride wafer. The format of the symbol  
14, preferably Data Matrix, is such as to facilitate accommodation of the substrate 12  
on the limited space available on components 8 or carriers 2 for the components 8.  
The symbol 14 is formed by etching an etchable layer 32, such as gold, using an  
electron beam technique and is read with a vision system 20 wherein diffuse red light  
is projected on to the symbol and the reflected pattern, corresponding to the pattern of  
10 the symbol 14, is captured and decoded.

004201-86486960